The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of
The National Geographic Society
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXIX January 8, 1951 NUMBER 13

1. Ecuador—Storehouse of Strategic Materials
2. 1,000 Trees Commemorate Malta's Bravery
3. Indochina Warfare Menaces French Hanoi
4. Cowboys Capture New American Generation
5. Carrier Oriskany Honors Historic Battle

WALT DYKE FROM GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY

DRESSED IN COWBOY TOGS (Bulletin No. 4), A YOUNG AMERICAN LEARNS SIGN LANGUAGE FROM A BLACKFOOT INDIAN AT BROWNING, MONTANA

Bulletin No. 1, January 8, 1951

Ecuador—Storehouse of Strategic Materials

A PROMISING bank of strategic materials—Ecuador—is in the process of reassessing the full extent of its capital resources.

With an economic development program under way, the South American nation has just taken the first national census since its birth as an independent country 120 years ago. The population count is expected to be considerably above a 1949 estimate of nearly 3,500,000.

Island Loaned to Guard Canal

Ecuador got its start toward a brighter future during World War II when it provided the allied nations with commodities well-nigh indispensable to victory—quinine from cinchona bark, balsa wood for airplane and life-raft construction, kapok for life preservers, oil, natural rubber, and such food products as cocoa, coffee, and rice.

Equally or more important was the loan of Ecuador's Seymour Island in the Galapagos group to the United States for use in guarding the Pacific approaches to the Panama Canal. In return, United States dollars built roads and encouraged the highest economic development in the nation's history.

Despite wartime advances and postwar efforts toward financial health, Ecuador still has a substantial task ahead to make the most of its natural resources and achieve a lasting economic stability. Diverse geography, inadequate education facilities, poor communications, and, in parts, a tropical climate are handicaps to be overcome.

Straddling the Equator, for which it is named, the country is cut into three distinct geographic regions by two parallel Andean mountain ranges. These ranges encompass the ten central basins where three-fourths of the people live. Here the climate is springlike the year round, and such crops as wheat, corn, barley, beans, and potatoes are grown.

To the west, however, a hot coastal plain stretches from the mountains to the Pacific. To the east the undeveloped, sparsely populated Oriente reaches deep into the tropical jungles of the Amazon River.

Has Resources Now in Demand

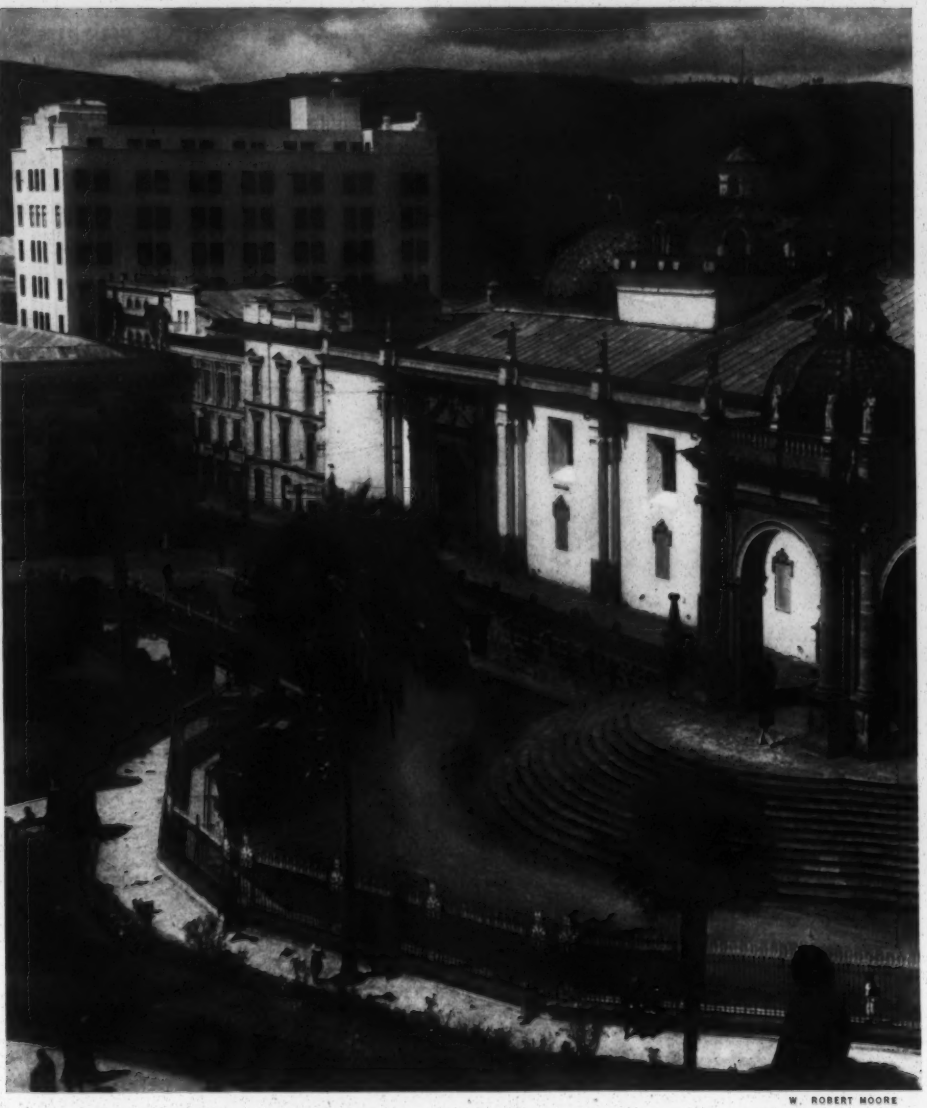
Ecuador's people, more than half of them of Indian stock, are thus confronted with isolating geographic barriers which make communication and transport major problems.

On the credit side are rich natural resources, an important reservoir of materials much in demand by the new United States defense effort. In the Oriente vast forests stand ready for paper and allied industries. Here and there on the lower western slopes of the Andes wild rubber trees flourish. The coastal region is fertile and well suited to the growing of fruits, rice, cacao, cotton, and tobacco.

The present government is regarded by many as alert to the country's possibilities. In the overcrowded capital city of Quito (illustration, inside cover), and in Guayaquil—the only well-developed port—the poor are be-

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
COPYRIGHT, 1951, BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
SUBSCRIPTION TWENTY-FIVE CENTS FOR THIRTY WEEKLY ISSUES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. IN CANADA, FIFTY CENTS.

UMI



W. ROBERT MOORE

EQUATORIAL QUITO BASKS IN TEMPERATE SUNSHINE ON A PLATEAU OF THE ANDES

Tall columns topped by statues and domes capped with squat towers ornament Quito's cathedral, built when Ecuador (Bulletin No. 1) was part of Spain's South American domain. It is one of 56 churches whose bells seem continuously to shatter the quiet of the ancient capital. Quito was old when Pizarro's conquistadores defeated the Incas in 1533. Although there is no written history of the period before the Spanish conquest, archeologists have dug up evidence that the ancient city was a stronghold of the Quitus, Indians who were conquered by coastal tribes about A.D. 980—before Leif Ericson landed on the continent to the north. Standing on a plateau 9,000 feet above sea level, 15 miles south of the Equator (for which the country was named), Quito enjoys spring weather the year round. The pleasant combination of altitude and latitude keeps parks and gardens perpetually green, in dramatic contrast to the snow which gleams on near-by Andes peaks. Looming behind the cathedral is Quito's very modern "skyscraper."

1,000 Trees Commemorate Malta's Bravery

ONE thousand pohutukawa trees, eloquent with a language of their own, recently arrived in Malta on a diplomatic mission.

Sent by New Zealand to express admiration for Malta's gallantry during World War II, the trees are on hand to mark the tenth anniversary of the Axis air siege of the Mediterranean island which began June 11, 1940, and continued for more than two years.

Blossom in June, Bomb Anniversary Month

The pohutukawas—like the people of Malta—have demonstrated ability to take a lot of punishment. Unlike most trees, they seem to thrive on rocky cliffs, enduring the fury of coastal gales and the salty bite of flying sea spray. Though their trunks and branches are often gnarled and twisted, the trees flower yearly in a profusion of gay red blossoms.

Moreover, on Malta they will be in bloom each year as though memorializing the crucial month when the island, in the words of President Roosevelt, "stood alone but unafraid in the center of the sea, one bright flame in the darkness. . . ."

The pohutukawa mission to Malta is not the first time trees have served as ambassadors of international good will.

The famous Japanese cherry trees in Washington, D. C., were sent in 1912 by Yukio Ozaki, the mayor of Tokyo, as "a small token of the very high esteem in which the people of this city (Tokyo) hold your great country." Planted around the Tidal Basin, framing the Jefferson memorial, the cherry trees today still are a featured attraction of the capital's spring season. In May, 1950, the 91-year-old Japanese donor saw the trees in blossom while visiting the United States.

Less well known, perhaps, were the American gifts of pink and white dogwood sent to Tokyo in 1915 and 1917. There they "blossomed . . . quite beautifully with popular admiration," according to Tokyo's mayor.

Trees as Reminders

A more utilitarian purpose prompted the recent gift, by an American group, of 50,000 eucalyptus trees to Israel. The trees are needed not only to provide future lumber but also to help combat soil erosion in the arid sections of the country.

In every state in the United States trees stand as living reminders of great men and events. A Forest of Fame was started in Mount Vernon, Wisconsin, in 1916, with trees from the birthplaces of presidents of the United States, famous generals, and persons distinguished in the fields of religion, science, music, agriculture, and commerce.

Descendants of the historic Biblical cedars of Lebanon—among the most famous trees in the world—are planted in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington. They came as a token of the appreciation of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, for United States help in Near East relief work after World War I.

Malta has been an English colony since 1814. It was annexed to the

UMI

ing encouraged to resettle in the potentially productive but unused areas. These areas represent 40 per cent of the nation's 100,000-odd square miles.

The Rockefeller International Basic Economy Corporation advanced $100,000 in 1950 to set up an Ecuador farm service company to assist in agricultural development. The Export-Import Bank of Washington also has made available $250,000 to purchase modern farm equipment.

Meanwhile, new roads are being pushed through virgin lands and the underdeveloped northern port of Esmeraldas is being enlarged. Even the mountains are being groomed to serve. A chain of inns and Indian craftware markets is under construction to lure tourists to Ecuador's spectacular backbone of lofty peaks, nestling valleys, and mirror lakes.

NOTE: Ecuador appears on the National Geographic Society's map of South America. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a map price list.

For further information, see "El Sangay, Fire-breathing Giant of the Andes," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1950; "Sea Fever," February, 1949; "Quinine Hunters in Ecuador," March, 1946*; "From Sea to Clouds in Ecuador," December, 1941 (out of print; refer to your library); "Mrs. Robinson Crusoe in Ecuador," February, 1934; and "Volcanoes of Ecuador," January, 1929. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included on a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00; issues unmarked are 50¢ a copy.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 10, 1949, "Ecuador Knows Constant Threat of Nature"; and "Gateway Guayaquil Ships Ecuador's Products," October 6, 1947.

JOHN E. SCHULTZ

IN ECUADOR'S ORIENTE, HOUSES BUILT WITH AN OVERHANG GIVE SHELTER FROM SUN AND RAIN

Bulletin No. 3, January 8, 1951

Indochina Warfare Menaces French Hanoi

WAR has edged toward the doorstep of Hanoi, center of French culture and influence in the northern rice-bowl area of Viet Nam, one of the divisions of Indochina.

Communist-led native troop formations lately have been reported in strength only 30 miles from the city. Hit-and-run rebel forays have struck even closer, destroying towns and villages in the near-by countryside.

"Little Paris of the Orient"

Hanoi commands the Red River delta, one of the most densely populated regions in the world. A part of Viet Nam's Tonkin province, both city and delta lie within the shadow of neighboring Red China on the north. French military reverses in this mountainous border area have exposed Hanoi as never before to the threat posed by the followers of Indochina's communist leader, Ho Chi Minh.

Through long months of warfare Hanoi has maintained the bright façade of a "little Paris" transplanted to the tropic Orient. It is a city of brick sidewalks, wide shady boulevards, large modern buildings—and the inevitable sidewalk cafés so typical of Paris.

Since this is a city where East meets West, there are many ancient pagodas and a large native quarter near the modernized French section. Altogether, the city has a population of more than 150,000. Natives and French alike observe the traditional siesta from noon to three P.M., when the streets are nearly deserted and even the near-by fighting seems unreal.

But Hanoi, second-largest city within the three French-sponsored states comprising Indochina, has been hard hit commercially. Its port of Haiphong, some 60 miles to the east on the Gulf of Tonkin, handled only 218 steamships in 1948 as compared to 6,284 in prewar 1938. French patrols are required to keep open the Haiphong-Hanoi railroad. Some improvement has been noted at the port recently—particularly since the start of United States military aid—but full recovery depends upon an end to hostilities.

Paddies Gleam Like Mirrors

Small river vessels reach Hanoi from Haiphong. Goods ordinarily shipped from the area include rice, cotton embroidery, silk, and watches.

War scars are abundantly evident in various areas within the rich Red River delta, where flooded rice paddies gleam like a thousand mirrors. Some towns, such as Sontay, have been completely leveled by rebels. It is not uncommon for the raiders to carry off every brick, either for their own use or to prevent rebuilding.

The Red River rises in Yunnan Province of China, where it is the Yuan. The French call their section of it the Rouge, which means red. The river forms a pathway from the Kunming area of China to Hanoi and the sea.

French strategy in northern Indochina is to maintain control of the populous cities and towns and the "rice basket" areas. They have some

UMI

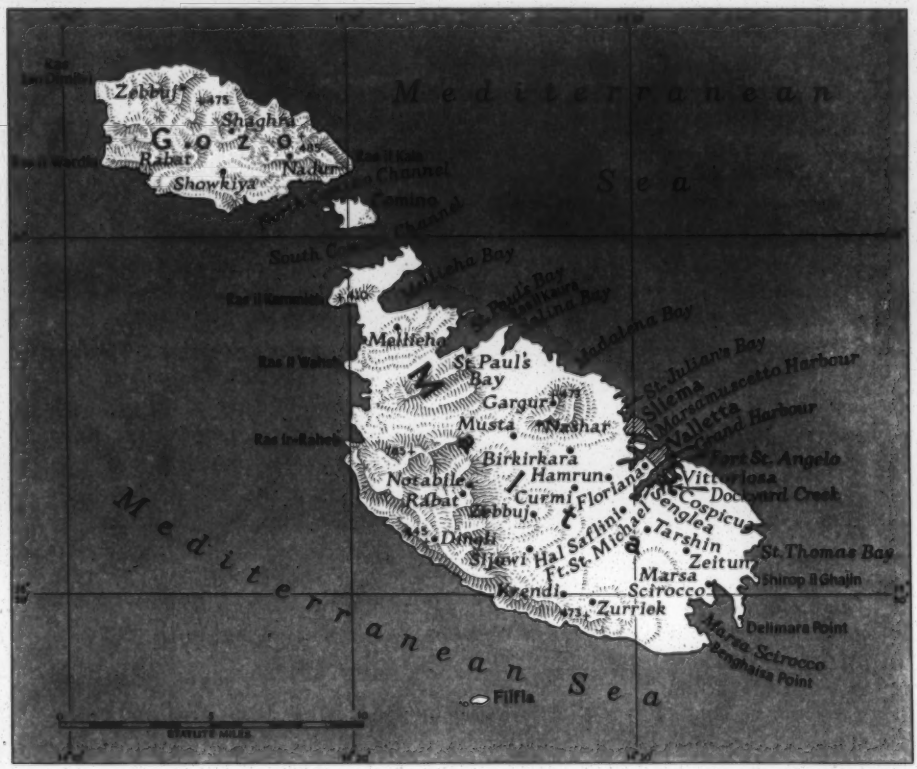
British crown with the free will of the Maltese people. For decades, it has been the headquarters of the British Mediterranean fleet. Lying 58 miles south of Sicily in the narrow part of the Mediterranean, the island controls the sea lanes. Italy and Germany, using land-based bombers, tried to knock it out during the early years of World War II, but never quite succeeded. Limestone caverns and quarries enabled many of the inhabitants to live underground during raids.

The Maltese speak a language that combines Italian and Arabic. They regard themselves as a distinct race.

NOTE: Malta may be located on the Society's map of Europe and the Near East.

For further information, see "Malta Invicta," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1943*; "Wanderers Awheel in Malta," August, 1940; and "The Maltese Islands," November, 1935.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 17, 1947, "Malta Meets Postwar Problems with Vigor."



DRAWN BY H. E. EASTWOOD

MORE THAN 300,000 MALTESE LIVE ON THESE MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS, SHOWN AS MERE DOTS ON LARGE-AREA MAPS

Valletta, the capital of the British Colony of Malta, is one of the most important ports of call in the world. Malta itself has an area (95 square miles) three times that of New York's Manhattan Island. Total of all three Maltese islands: 122 square miles. Long Arab control and influence is revealed by such place names as Ras ir-Raheb and Shirop il Ghajin. Fifty-eight miles north lies Italy's island of Sicily, source of many of the Axis bombing forays during the early years of World War II.

Bulletin No. 4, January 8, 1951

Cowboys Capture New American Generation

COWBOYS are riding out of the range to conquer America. They already have corraled the younger generation.

Cowpokes lope across television screens, pitch camp in department stores, and round up dogies in comic strips, movie houses, radio programs, novels, and songs. Small-fry punchers (illustration, cover) can be found behind nearly every tree, on most United States playgrounds, and in a majority of the nation's homes.

West Has Spread East

Enthusiasm for the Old West's contribution to Americana is so strong that a Colorado college is now offering a course for cowboys, giving "in-the-saddle" training in branding, dehorning, vaccinating, and other cowpoke specialties.

Across the continent other skills such as roping, bronco riding (illustration, next page), and frontier square dancing are being taught in eastern cowboy clubs to an estimated 45,000 persons. Chap-happy Manhattan executives are donning spurs, bright shirts, and high-heeled shoes to ride ranges within commuting distance of New York City.

City stores are setting up "Cowboy Hitching Posts," with costumed sales people, to sell Western regalia to patrons ranging from toddlers to grandfathers. This year, in the months of July and August alone, some 180 towns in 20 states held rodeos for tourists hankering after the thrills of a bygone era.

Few characters in all history have inspired as much literature, admiration, and imitation as has the legendary hard-riding, quick-triggered cattleman of America's Old West. Yet the cowboy who rides today in the imagination of a vast public is not yet 100 years old.

It is true that his ancestors got their start with the Spanish explorer-conqueror Hernán Cortés, who brought the New World's first horses to Mexico in 1519. Soon after, long-horned Spanish cattle were introduced. Horses and cattle multiplied and moved northward.

A Truly American Development

Some were domesticated, branded, and herded by their Mexican masters, the vaqueros. Most ran wild—the horses to serve as fleet-footed "Indian ponies," the great herds of cattle to found the fortunes of future cattle kings in Texas. Thus it was that the Texas cowboy inherited from his Mexican neighbor the animals of his trade, the equipment (horned saddle, lariat, and spur), and even the technique of roping, branding, and herding.

It was a truly United States development, however, that made cattle raising profitable. Before the Civil War cattle ranches in Texas had few outlets for their enormous supply of beef, although some animals were shipped across the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans, Mobile, Florida, and the Caribbean islands.

After Appomattox, battle-worn Texans came back to an impoverished

mechanized equipment, and still hold the flat plains of the Red River delta. The rebels command large sections of the mountainous country adjoining the Chinese border. They have had little in the way of heavy weapons and transport.

NOTE: Hanoi may be located on the Society's map of Southeast Asia.

For further information, see "Strife-torn Indochina," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1950; "By Motor Trail Across French Indo-China," October, 1935; and "Along the Old Mandarin Road of Indo-China," August, 1931.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 16, 1950, "Rugged Ground Hampers French in Indochina"; "Viet Nam Replaces Three Indochinese States," February 27, 1950; "French Indochina Forms Tropical Crossroads," March 7, 1949; and "Strife Still Rules in French Indochina," January 19, 1948.

ALICE SCHALEK

THATCH COATS AND UMBRELLA HATS KEEP OFF THE RAIN IN THIS HANOI MARKET

Geographic Oddities and Briefs

Palestine's Dead Sea, 1,286 feet below sea level, is rimmed by the lowest land surface in the world. Some 500 miles westward, Africa's Qattara Depression in Egypt dips down 436 feet, closely matched by the 427 feet currently credited as the lowest point in the Turfan Depression of Sinkiang Province, western China. California's Death Valley, lowest land in the America's, is 275 feet below the oceans.

Long before Columbus discovered America the Aztec Indians used cacao beans—from which chocolate is processed—for money. Slaves could be bought for 100 cacao beans, taxes were levied in the "coin" and soldiers were paid off in it.

Highest summit in the British Isles is Ben Nevis in West Scotland. It rises 4,406 feet.

Bulletin No. 5, January 8, 1951

Carrier Oriskany Honors Historic Battle

THE United States Navy's newly commissioned aircraft carrier, the powerful *Oriskany*, adds to the nation's armed might a name indelibly associated with the earliest traditions of American valor.

Residents of New York's beautiful and historic Mohawk Valley have a special pride and interest in this latest addition to the Navy. The carrier was named for the Battle of Oriskany which was fought August 6, 1777, near Rome, in the western part of the valley. Many residents of the area proudly claim descent from the courageous colonial militiamen who took part in the battle.

An Ambush Precipitated the Battle

Oriskany has been called the bloodiest battle of the Revolutionary War in proportion to the number of men involved. Although casualty estimates vary widely, the American force of 800 under General Nicholas Herkimer probably lost at least a third of its number. The British, with their Indian allies, suffered equally heavy losses. By comparison with the huge armies of recent wars, these Revolutionary forces seem small, but in their day they were something to be reckoned with.

The firing started when Herkimer's men blundered into an ambush of British and Indians while marching to the relief of Fort Schuyler (usually called Stanwix for an earlier fort), at the present site of Rome.

Herkimer fell at the first volley. Mortally wounded, he had his men prop him against a beech tree. From this position, calmly smoking a pipe, he directed the fighting. Both sides blazed away from behind trees and rocks. When the British started a bayonet charge, the Americans, infuriated to find Tory neighbors opposing them, fought with redoubled vigor. Heavy rain finally interrupted this hand-to-hand conflict.

British Retreat to Oswego

When the battle was resumed Herkimer noticed that the skulking Indians would wait for a shot, then rush their man before he could reload. The general ordered his men to fight in pairs, one reloading while the other dropped the nearest redskin. The method proved effective. The Indians fled, and the British were forced to retreat or risk annihilation.

Although Herkimer's command was left in possession of the battlefield, there were not enough men left to go on to the relief of the fort. The general was carried to his home near by, where he died a few days later. Under pressure of colonial reinforcements which saved Fort Schuyler, the British retired to Oswego, 65 miles northwest on Lake Ontario.

Today the battleground, about two miles west of the town of Oriskany, is a popular pilgrimage spot. Historic landmarks dot the valley, for British and Indians tried numerous bloody forays against the colonists.

Then as now the Mohawk Valley was an important east-west highway, only direct sea-level route through the 1,300-mile Appalachian chain. Through it, paralleling the river, here and there using its bed, flows the Erie Canal (illustration, below)—the 340-mile stretch of the New York

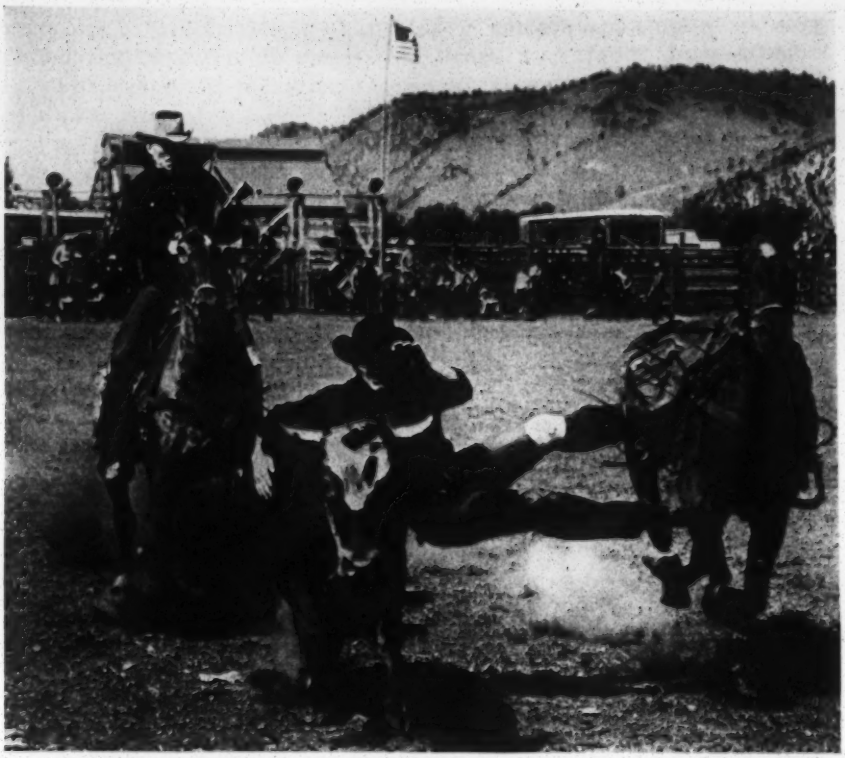
UMI

homeland, teeming with thousands of longhorns. They decided on a great gamble—to march the cattle to markets in the north. On the epic Texas drive of 1866, between 250,000 and 350,000 cattle crossed the Red River on the way to Kansas and Missouri.

The next year the railroad reached Abilene, Kansas, connecting it with consumers in the populous east, and the golden age of the Cowboy West was ushered in. Cattle raising spread to the ranges of other states. Stories and songs about the "Long Trails"—Chisholm, West Chisholm, Shawnee, Panhandle, Pecos, Goodnight-Loving, and others—became part of American lore. And the cowboy heroes of those trails—rough, ready, freedom-loving men of the open spaces—won a unique place in the hearts of their countrymen.

NOTE: Texas, where the early cowboy rode the range, may be located on the Society's map of the Southwestern United States. The maps of the Northwestern United States and of the United States of America show the other states of the cattle country of the "Old West."

For further information, see "Montana, Shining Mountain Treasureland," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1950; "South Dakota Keeps Its West Wild," May, 1947; "Nevada, Desert Treasure House," January, 1946*; "Grass Makes Wyoming Fat," August, 1945*; "Nebraska, the Cornhusker State," May, 1945*; "The Yield of Texas," February, 1945*; and "Idaho Makes the Desert Bloom," June, 1944*.



ERNST C. PETERSON

TO "BULLDOG" A STEER, YOU NEED A HORSE, A SOUND BODY, AND TWO STRONG HANDS

Only seconds pass between the opening of the corral gates and the tying of the animal in helpless submission. Such stunts thrill old and young alike. Repeated in countless rodeos, they help to keep alive the old West.

State Barge Canal system which connects the Hudson with the Great Lakes.

Like a silver chain, the canal links the bustling industrial cities of the valley. Schenectady, metropolis of the area, with more than 100,000 people, is home of the General Electric Company's largest plant. Amsterdam has woven carpets for over a century. Canajoharie processes food for countless grocery shelves. Herkimer manufactures furniture and is a shipping point for the area's dairy products. Utica's name is a synonym for fine sheets and pillowcases. Rome turns into pots and pans and similar utensils one tenth of all the copper ore mined in the United States. Oneida fashions silver plate for America's dinner tables.

The Battle of Oriskany, though indecisive, helped close the valley's western door against invasion. A monument to mark it stands in a five-acre state park. When the new carrier was commissioned, residents of the historic region gave the crew a number of gifts, including an organ, a battle flag, and a painting of the battle scene. But most important of all was their gift of a fighting name for a fighting ship—Oriskany.

NOTE: Oriskany is shown on the Society's map of the Northeastern United States. See also, "Drums to Dynamos on the Mohawk," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1947; "Black Acres," November, 1941*; "Fruitful Shores of the Finger Lakes," May, 1941; "Spin Your Globe to Long Island," April, 1939; "America's First Settlers, the Indians," November, 1937; "New York—An Empire Within a Republic," November, 1933 (out of print; refer to your library); and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 24, 1949, "Mohawk Valley Marks 200 Years of History"; and "Saratoga Park Taps Hudson Valley History," December 6, 1948.

B. ANTHONY STEWART

WITHIN AN ARROW-SHOT OF ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD, CANAL AND HIGHWAY STREAK THE VALLEY

Through central New York's rich dairylands the canal has run its placid course for a century and a quarter. Today motor power replaces mules to propel cargoes of oil, pig iron, grain, sand, and chemicals. Between the Hudson and Niagara rivers 35 locks lift barges from sea level to the 564-foot height of the Niagara Frontier (the peaceful international border that clings to its historic name).